EU for dismantling the quantitative import restrictions

3103. DR. AKHILESH DAS : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the European Union and other developed countries have been pressing India to dismantle the quantitative import restrictions on various items especially the agricultural products under WTO regime;

(b) whether the demand was reiterated in recent bilateral consultation with Brussels;

(c) if so, the specific demands made at Brussels, item-wise; and

(d) the Government's response thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) to (c) On 23rd December, 2002 the European Communities (EC) requested consultations with India under the Dispute Settlement Mechanism of the World Trade Organization regarding import restrictions maintained by India under Articles XX and XXI of GATT 1994 on more than 100 products, including certain agricultural products, under its Export and Import Policy, 2002-07. India and the European Communities have held consultations in this case on 17th February, 2003 under the Dispute Settlement Mechanism of the WTO.

(d) The quantitative import restrictions are imposed under Articles XX, XXI of GATT 1994. However, as part of the annual review under the Exim Policy and in consultation with concerned Ministries/Departments, the Director General of Foreign Trade has, through Notification No. 02/(RE 2003)/2002-2007 dated 31 st March, 2003, amended the conditions relating to the policy regarding import of 69 products which includes certain items in EC's consultation request in this case.

Impact of dumping on domestic market

3104. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH: Will the Minister for COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the measures taken by Government to reduce the impact of dumped standard and sub-standard cheap foreign products on domestic industrial and agricultural goods in Indian markets,

(b) the names of all the products imported which is subject to their compliance with the Indian Quality Standards;